



# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



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### **Council to refinance debt from water plant**

*By Daniel Mathewson, assistant managing editor*

ALTUS -- The city is taking advantage of a low rate permanent loan package from the state water board for refinancing of the new reverse osmosis water treatment plant.

On Tuesday night the Altus City Council approved the adoption of two resolutions to authorize the city administrator to submit the application for permanent financing.

Following a presentation by Public Works Director Robert Stephenson, in which he recounted the recent tour of the 17,000 square foot facility by a group of business and civic leaders from the city of Altus, Kiwanis Club, the Altus Chamber of Commerce and Altus Air Force Base, City Administrator Mike Nettles explained the "attractive financing" offered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board which must be completed by Sept. 15, when the current construction financing matures.

In 1999 the water board granted the city a \$10.615 million revolving fund loan for construction of the plant, and in the fall of 2001, Altus citizens voted to keep the 1-cent sales tax, which was originally set in motion to fund the highway bypass, in place for another seven years to fund the plant.

The board, Nettles said, has extended the city two separate permanent loans -- a 60 percent interest bearing loan of \$7,175,000 and a 40 percent loan of \$4,246,000 with a one half percent administrative fee.

The reason that the total package exceeds the original \$10.615, Nettles said, is that, "one, we don't know what the final completion dollar amount is going to be, so the water board, to make sure they covered the bases, included also a debt service reserve account on top of the total of 10.6 million dollars, but notice that it says 'not to exceed.'"

By the last regular meeting of the city council on Aug. 2, Nettles said, the city had expended about \$9.9 million, leaving some \$700,000 from the original total.

"I don't know that we're going to use it all," Nettles said, "but since we have to go ahead and have the documentation prepared, we put in there 'not to exceed' to cover the outside chance that we would spend all of that plus have to establish a debt service reserve account."

These types of accounts, he explained, are written into financing documents to provide some insurance or payment coverage in case the borrower is not able to make payments.

When the loan was first secured in 1999, it was not set up with a debt service reserve account, he said.

Nettles said the overall permanent loans, with a half percent administrative fee for the 40 percent loan and a variable rate of 3.55 or 3.65 for the 60 percent loan, is expected to be around \$11,436,000.

When asked by Councilman Jerry Don Henry if he still expected the overall cost for the plant to be \$10.6 million, Nettles said that personally he could not see that the \$700,000 remaining would be eaten up in contractor change orders. However, he said, "We've been trying to get final figures from both contractors as well as our engineers on what is actually left to be completed."

Stephenson had explained that Wilco Construction Inc. of Altus, the company responsible for yard piping, site work and construction of the building, was still doing ground maintenance and cleanup, and that

*Altus Times*

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Indeck Power Equipment Co. of Wheeling, Ill., responsible for design, fabrication and installation of treatment equipment, was still in the process of programming.

Stephenson said that the level of Total Organic Carbons in the city's water has dropped dramatically since the plant has been producing water. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality requires that at least 25 percent of TOCs be removed from the water supply he said, adding that the most recent tests show that Altus has removed 56 percent.



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### **Weather Delays Shuttle, Altus Stop Still Possible**

*by Mike Andrews, Times editor*

Had the weather cooperated a 747 carrying the Space Shuttle Discovery on its back could have taken off on Monday, or on Tuesday, or on Wednesday.

As it stands now, the flight will not take place until Friday and may have to wait until Saturday.

Just as surely as rains early in the week kept Southwest Oklahomans damper and cooler than normal for August, a wide-ranging weather system draped across the nation's midsection kept the shuttle grounded at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The shuttle was forced to land in California instead of the normal destination -- Cape Canaveral, Fla. -- also due to weather.

The timing of the shuttle's return trip is of interest to Altusans because depending on the weather over refueling stops in Texas, the shuttle could land here, either for an overnight stay Friday or for a quick refueling stop Saturday, depending on when it is cleared for takeoff.

The reason for the delays is the sensitive nature of the shuttle. "They do not want to get it wet," said Jim Weslowski, head of the Altus Air Force Base Public Affairs Office. "And unlike a passenger jet that can go up 30,000 feet, the shuttle can't fly above the weather."

That means the shuttle needs clear air from California to Florida, which can be a tall order during a stormy late summer. So many precautions are being taken to protect the shuttle's sensitive heat shields because they are vulnerable to impacts, even from rain, as it rides atop the 747.

Weslowski said his office will know during the day on Friday whether the shuttle will be making an overnight stay here or whether the trip faces further delays.

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### **Realignment a reality for Altus schools**

*By Sonya Ray, staff writer*

ALTUS--The Altus School system has shaken things up with grade realignment going into effect this year. School is just around the corner and when the first bell rings Thursday, each school will be hosting a new crop of students.

The elementary schools will be filled with students in grades kindergarten through fourth. Rivers Elementary will be the only elementary school testing a new preschool program this year. According to Principal Robbie Holder, Rivers has prepared for the addition of the 80 4-year-olds who will grace the halls of the elementary this year.

"We've prepared behind high quality teachers and personnel," Holder said. "We have ordered developmentally appropriate furniture and developmentally appropriate supplies for each preschool class," Holder said. "Our parents have been very supportive and positive about the upcoming school year."

In addition to the elementary schools, the Altus Middle School staff has also prepped for the 2005-06 school year. AMS will be a fifth- and sixth-grade establishment. Some parents like Sonia Bell are concerned about their child's venture to the new school. Bell's fifth grader will be attending AMS for the first time.

"He attended Roosevelt last year and I am a little nervous about him going to a bigger school. Other than that I am fine," Bell said. "He is excited about going."

Many teachers have been moved around to accommodate the new students. According to Public Relations Director Valerie Roberts each teacher was given the option of whether or not they wanted to move.

"Each teacher was able to choose which place they wanted to go or whether they wanted to move or not," Roberts said. "There have been a lot of teachers moved around this year."

At Altus Junior High, ninth graders were moved out and seventh graders were added, leaving the school with seventh and eighth graders. AJH parent Monica Castillo says she feels her child is being forced to grow up.

"She's scared and so am I. She's scared that she won't fit it," Castillo said. "She was hoping that she could do another year at middle school, but now she feels like she has to start over again."

Seventh graders aren't the only ones who have to start off as the underclassmen. Freshman who at one time ruled AJH, will have to start as peons at the high school level. The Altus High School will be ninth to 12th grade.

Altus High School Principal Mark Haught says that his teachers are excited about the upcoming year. The teachers were given a special new year's party to start the school year off.

Classes will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday. Parents and students are encouraged to attend Meet the Teacher Day from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

*Altus Times*

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# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### Japanese students earn wings at Columbus AFB

*Editor's Note: Today is the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Six decades after Japan's surrender to the United States, the nation now sends pilots to train with the U.S. Air Force so they can contribute to Japan's Air Self-Defense Force.*

**By Airman Alyssa Wallace**  
14th Flying Training Wing

For many people, the opportunity to study in a country abroad is the chance of a lifetime.

First Lts. Kenji Murakami of Ehime, Japan, and Yuko Shibata of Nagoya, Japan, received that chance when they were accepted into the T-1 pilot training program at Columbus Air Force Base.

Both officers attended the Japanese Military Academy over five years ago. After completing Air Force Cadet School and Basic Flight Training, they volunteered for the Air Force T-1 training program.

"I've always loved the sky and the stars," Shibata said. "When I was a child, I wanted to become an astronaut, but there aren't many female astronauts in my country."

She said here have been few



*Murakami*



*Shibata*

female pilots in Japan, so this was a special opportunity for her.

Murakami and Shibata are the first Japanese male and female pilots to graduate from T-1 training at CAFB.

To achieve this accomplishment, both lieutenants had to overcome a common obstacle – the language barrier.

Despite the language barrier obstacles, both officers managed to successfully complete training.

"I've been really lucky," she said. "Most people in my country go straight into the academy after high school, but I waited a year before I went. If I hadn't done that, I don't think I'd be here now."

Murakami said Americans should be proud of their Air Force.





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Courtesy Photo

**Good Neighbors** — Columbus Air Force Base Pilot Partners, from left, Brenda Toney and Tammy Miller, from Dr. Whitecar's office, Columbus Hematology and Oncology, are shown with the Senior Ranking Officer (SRO) Capt. Howard Thomas and Joann and Howard Ferguson of GNC-Leigh Mall.



# AETC News Clips

## Columbus AFB, Miss.



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### **DynCorp gets a new contract**

DynCorp Technical Services' aircraft maintenance contract at Columbus Air Force Base has been renewed for one year with an option for six additional years, CAFB officials have announced.

DTS Aviation Services Inc. is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. The company's current maintenance contract at the base was scheduled to expire Sept. 30. The new contract period begins Oct. 1.

DynCorp was awarded a new contract following a best value source selection conducted by the Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron at Randolph AFB, Texas. Contract administration will be performed by the 14th Contracting Squadron at Columbus AFB.

*The Commercial Dispatch*

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# AETC News Clips

## Keesler AFB, Miss.



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### **Personnel leader kept on his toes by joint-service job**

By SUSAN GRIGGS

KEESLER NEWS STAFF

Bear hugs from his kids, daytime temperatures below 90 degrees and ice-cold beer - these are the creature comforts Maj. Douglas Mullins is missing the most during his deployment to Iraq.

One thing he's learned at the halfway point of his assignment is that it's possible to learn to ignore the sounds of gunfire. Mullins, commander of the 81st Mission Support Squadron, left in April for his first deployment of his 16 years in the Air Force. His current title is Deputy J1 for the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq.

"A joint staff is structured using a numbering system - one is manpower and personnel, two is intelligence, three is operations, four is logistics and so on," he explained.

The organization is a mixture of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps members and representatives from nine coalition countries. The bulk of the force is provided by the Army Reserve's 98th Division.

Mullins remarked that the interaction with the other services has been the most rewarding part of his deployment duties so far.

"We provide personnel support for the deployed members of the command, about 1,300 personnel spread throughout Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait," he noted. "We also work with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense to rebuild its personnel systems."

Mullins is stationed at Phoenix Base, a forward operating base housed in a former private elementary school for children of Baathist party leaders.

"We're located within the international zone, directly next to the Ministry of Defense," he said. "Our job is to equip, train and mentor the Iraqi security forces, both military and civilian police."

The most challenging part of the deployment for the major is the long hours.

"Working seven days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day is very tiring," he admitted.

Mullins said hot, dry weather is the norm this time of year.

"The normal day is around 110 degrees - the highest I've seen is 124, but the veterans tell me to expect 130 before I depart," he pointed out.

Mullins lives in a comfortable, air-conditioned two-bedroom trailer. Two people share each bedroom. The base has good gyms, pools and an Internet café.

"The dining facilities are very good," he commented. "The one where I have breakfast is in the Presidential Palace."

He said patience and creativity are required to deal with language barriers, "especially with the Australians. That's just part of the assignment - our guards are from Fiji, the guards at the embassy are from Nepal."

Mullins looks forward to reuniting with his wife, LeAnne, and his sons, 18-year-old Seth and 8-year-old twins, Scott and Tim, in early September.

"And I'm looking forward to seeing Keesler again," he added.

*The Sun Herald*

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# AETC News Clips

## Lackland AFB, Texas



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### Fort Sam four get makeovers

By Amy Dorsett

SA Express-News (Page 1B & 8B)

18 Aug 05

Four female soldiers stationed at Fort Sam Houston received star treatment this week and will be featured in a six-page spread in the December issue of Good Housekeeping, where their new looks will be highlighted.

The women have been pampered, their hair cut and colored — though the new 'dos meet regulation standards — and they've been showered with gifts, from skin care products and makeup to gift certificates for new clothes.

The magazine decided to come to Texas, because it's home to Mary Kay, which helped sponsor the makeover, and zeroed in on Fort Sam Houston, because personnel there were easy to work with, according to Holly Crawford, beauty editor for Good Housekeeping.

"We wanted to do something to show our support," she said. "It's a nice way to do something special for them."



(Photos by John Davenport/Express-News)  
Army Lt. Theresa Nefflen (left) studies a photo with photographer Lynda Churilla during a shoot Wednesday at Fort Sam Houston. Good Housekeeping magazine will feature the makeovers in its December issue.

The four were selected following a casting call that drew nearly 100 — including a few men, who Crawford insists went as a joke.

On Tuesday, "before" pictures were shot and the women were whisked off to Sergio's Hair Salon in the Quarry Market. On Wednesday, they were dressed in new duds and had their "after" pictures taken.

Sgt. 1st Class Tammy Crawley said her husband approved of her new look.

"She didn't change me completely, she just enhanced me," said the 36-year-old of her hairdresser. "It's a great chance to get exposure as women who are strong leaders but still feminine."

Also featured in the magazine will be Lt. Col. Andrea "Jeannie" Taliaferro, 41, Capt. Ronsetta Hutchison, 25, and Lt. Theresa Nefflen, 25.

Taliaferro didn't plan on attending the casting call, but was persuaded to show up.

"I thought they wanted younger, model-looking people," she said.

She didn't tell her husband, who is stationed in Yemen, about the experience until Tuesday night. Most of her family and friends live far away and she doesn't plan on letting them in on the surprise until she mails them the magazine.

Even on Wednesday morning, as she was waiting to have her photos taken, Taliaferro didn't seem to believe she'd been chosen.

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"This isn't really happening to me," she said.

For the photo spread, Taliaferro was dressed in a bright outfit, not like the earth tones she usually wears.

"It's an outfit I would never pick, but I like it," she said. "It's sparkly and has lots of color."

"I think this is wonderful — I've never seen a spread on a military woman makeover. We're not just tough women in the Army, we have a softer side, too."



# AETC News Clips

## Luke AFB, Ariz.



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### Spotlight on . . . Scott Dearduff

Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley has chosen Luke Air Force Base Command Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff as honorary chairman of the fourth-annual Bricks and Sticks Golf Classic, to be held Nov. 18 at the Wigwam Resort & Golf Club. Habitat for Humanity partners with low-income families to provide them with a place to live. For more information: (623) 583-2417 or [www.hfhvv.org](http://www.hfhvv.org).



**Who Dearduff is:** The command chief master sergeant for the 56th Fighter Wing is the senior enlisted non-commissioned officer at Luke. He is responsible for the morale, welfare, training and professional development of the world's largest fighter wing. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1982 and has performed a variety of duties.

**His career:** Dearduff is a decorated military leader, receiving a Bronze Star for meritorious service under direct enemy fire during the war in Iraq. He also received the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters. In 1996, he was recognized as the Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Senior NCO of the Year.

**On Habitat for Humanity:** "The men and women of Luke Air Force Base are very appreciative of this level of praise and support and are particularly proud of Luke's association with Habitat for Humanity," Dearduff said. "Our airmen have volunteered countless hours for the organization's worthy cause."

**The tournament:** In addition to Dearduff, other service personnel from Luke will participate in the golf classic as local heroes. This program allows individuals or corporations to sponsor a member of the military, fire or police departments to play in the golf classic. The sponsor covers the cost of golfing and dinner for the local hero.

*The Arizona Republic*

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